

Kissinger: millions rely on us

GENEVA (Reuters). — U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, co-chairman of the conference, arrived last night by air from Paris. Dr. Kissinger was the last of the main protagonists of the conference to reach Geneva. The other co-chairman, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, flew in on Wednesday.

In a statement at the airport Dr. Kissinger said: "I have come to Geneva today at the behest of the President of the U.S. in the cause of peace. The fate of Arabs and Jews has been inextricably linked throughout their history, rising and falling together."

"Recent centuries both have been reduced to an equally cruel fate, the one dispersed and persecuted throughout the world, the other deprived of autonomy and freedom in its former empire."

"But over the past quarter of a century both have stood on the verge of overcoming their past, no longer restrained by outside forces but by their struggle with one another."

"Thus in the land of Arabs and Jews, where the reality of mistrust and hate so tragically contradicts the spiritual message which originates there, it is essential for the voice of reconciliation to be heard."

"The war that began last October 6, like its three predecessors, has proved the futility of military solutions. There is no acceptable alternative to a negotiated settlement of the issues so long in dispute, and to a determination on the part of all the parties who will assemble here tomorrow to make the negotiations succeed."

"For its part the U.S. comes here with that determination. President Nixon has instructed me to engage the influence and resources of the U.S. in a major effort to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. I shall carry out these instructions with all my heart and energy."

"In my meetings with Arab and Israeli leaders over the course of the past 10 days, I have found none who wanted the war to continue, none who would not recognize that now is the time to break the cycle of uneasy truce and violent war."

"Upon us and what we do here depend the lives and hopes of millions of people, and it is to the people that we shall have to answer should we fail."

GENEVA TALKS OPEN TODAY

Special table arrangement to satisfy Arabs

By AMI RATH, Jerusalem Post Correspondent
GENEVA. — The Middle East peace conference has become a fact. It opens at 10.30 a.m. this morning at the historic Council chamber at the Palais des Nations here. The Israel, Egyptian and Jordanian delegations, as well as the American and Soviet co-chairmen and conference "convener" UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, will be seated around tables arranged in a hexagonal pattern, with one empty table set aside for Syria.

There will be a 40 cm. gap between each of the six tables, at the request of the Arab delegations, to make sure it is not a full round-table conference. This is a conference where questions of procedure and technicalities are regarded as matters of substance. But soon after the ceremonial opening, the conference will adjourn until talks on military disengagement between Israel and Egypt resume early in January, after the Knesset elections. By noon today, the long-awaited peace conference will have finally got off the ground — to what sort of start will depend to some extent on the tone and content of the six opening speeches.

The first, probably non-committal, statement by Dr. Waldheim, will be followed by speeches by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger — co-chairmen of the conference — and by Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, in that order.

This is only the beginning of a long road. Even Waldheim expected yesterday the peace conference would last throughout most of 1974, if not longer. It will be an achievement if it does not get bogged down before that. But despite a general feeling here that the whole affair got off on the wrong foot, the fact that the peace conference is actually taking place has given rise to hope that something may still come of it.

The most fervent and dramatic appeal for the success of the talks was made by Kissinger, the

architect of the conference. (See story this page.) A flurry of diplomatic activity throughout the day and the evening preceded the conference opening. It will probably continue until the last minute today.

Gromyko met twice yesterday with Fahmy and for one hour with Waldheim. Then Waldheim came to see Eban in the evening just before going to a working dinner with Fahmy. A Jordanian delegate said Rifai also held several meetings (see below).

But the most important meeting of all was the working dinner yesterday evening attended by Kissinger and Gromyko, when Kissinger was expected to report on his recent Middle East tour, during which he may have saved the conference from total failure, before it even started.

Kissinger is to meet with Eban for breakfast this morning, only two hours before the opening, but contacts between the Israel and U.S. delegations were being held throughout the evening.

Israel delegation sources said yesterday that the "other side" understood Israel's election problems and had agreed in principle to hold the military disengagement talks only in early January. These may, however, be preceded by continuous informal or even formal contacts between Israel and Egypt, so that the conference may be regarded as being in session even during the Christmas and New Year recess.

The official languages of the peace conference will be French, English and Russian. Most stringent security measures will be in force for the opening session and throughout the proceedings (see page 4). Among the 150 journalists and TV photographers to be admitted to the Council chamber's press gallery will be 10 Israeli newsmen, including The Jerusalem Post correspondent.

Although it is almost certain that the opening session will be held in the Council chamber, as scheduled, a secluded villa in Ariana Park near the Palais is being kept ready as standby, should security precautions require a change of venue at the last moment.

Four rooms adjacent to the press halls at the Palais have been taken over as press liaison offices of the Russian, Israeli, Egyptian and American delegations. Most background information is being provided by the Israelis.

The spokesman of the Soviet delegation yesterday evening invited me to come to his office, but would not elaborate on anything pertaining to the peace conference, besides referring each time to Gromyko's arrival statement on Wednesday. He thought he might be able to say more today or tomorrow. We all may be wiser by then.

Eban offers Arabs peace with honour

Jerusalem Post Correspondent
GENEVA. — Foreign Minister Abba Eban arrived here yesterday morning at head of the official Israeli delegation to the Middle East peace conference, offering "peace with honour" to Israel's Arab neighbours. Mr. Eban urged that "all the conditions of peaceful existence, including the establishment of a peace boundaries, should be approached in a spirit of flexible compromise."

In an obvious reminder of Israel's displeasure over the attempt to have the UN assume control of the conference, Mr. Eban said it was taking place "under the chairmanship of the U.S. and the Soviet Union." He added: "We should negotiate peace treaties, bringing decades of hostility to an end."

Mr. Eban concluded with his pledge that "we have come to seek peace with honour and offer peace with honour to the neighbouring states."

The Israeli delegation's special El Al Boeing 720 touched down at Geneva's heavily guarded Cointrin airport, just outside the centre of the city. The blue and white jet drew up on the tarmac close to the lounge which has been set aside for arriving official delegations.

After making his arrival statement in English, to the sound of dozens of whistling TV cameras, Mr. Eban switched to French to greet the citizens of Geneva. Over a dozen honours waited on the tarmac, guarded by open Swiss military jeeps carrying heavily armed soldiers, to whisk Mr. Eban and his entourage to the hotel just outside Geneva where the Israel delegation is staying.

Mr. Eban's moderate, low-key statement on arrival, stressing the need for peace treaties and compromise, was seen here as indicating the spirit of his address at today's opening session of the peace conference.

Earlier yesterday UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim arrived, stating that the conference was a "turning point in the efforts to find a solution for the Middle East problem."

Live TV cast

Israel TV will relay the opening of the conference from Geneva by communications satellite at 11.15 this morning. The school TV programmes have been cancelled to make way for the broadcast.

Jordanian Premier arrives in secrecy

By ANAN SAFADI
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
GENEVA. — Jordan's Premier and Foreign Minister, Zaid Rifai arrived here yesterday at the head of his country's delegation to the Middle East peace conference opening today.

Rifai's unannounced arrival at about 3 p.m. was enveloped in complete secrecy. Even Arab diplomats here were unaware of his arrival until a much later hour.

Rifai was a target of an assassination attempt by the Black September movement late in 1971. He was taken to a secret address outside this lake-side city along with the members of his delegation.

Sources close to the Jordanian mission here told The Jerusalem Post that Rifai would reassert Jordan's insistence on the recovery of East Jerusalem and the West Bank within the framework of an overall Middle East settlement under Security Council resolution 242.

The Jordanian sources went further to stress that Rifai would be flexible over the question of Palestinian representation at the conference, probably signalling a major turning point in Amman's policy which has so far objected to any independent Palestinian representation.

Engagement talks January — Meir

By WALLFISH
Post Knesset Reporter
A statement to the Knesset yesterday, Premier Golda Meir, said a cautiously optimistic view of the prospects at the conference.

Meir also warned the Knesset it would not be its terrible responsibility to small prisoners of war but also tried to allay her fate was in fact not (see col. 3).

At a five-hour debate, approved Mrs. Meir's 50 votes to 19, with 10 abstentions. Voting for were 10 and the Independent Union for Peace and the Arab League. Abstentions came from communists and the Revisionist Movement, which ostentatiously on discipline over the participation at the

said the Israeli delegation had clear instructions to every effort to add peace. She added: at the new Government negotiations will reflect our ring for peace within

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PoWs alive in Syria

Jerusalem Post Staff and Agencies
A still-undiscovered number of Israeli prisoners of war were believed still alive in Syrian captivity, out of some 140 who were reported missing on the northern front at the end of the October war. This information is based on pictures, TV films and radio interviews with Israeli PoWs.

The Syrians murdered at least 42 Israeli prisoners but it is believed that these atrocities were committed on or near the battlefields. Informed sources believe that most of the PoWs who made it past the front lines and were interrogated have been living under bearable — if degrading — conditions.

Prime Minister Golda Meir told the Knesset yesterday that the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies had assured Israel that it was not true that no Israeli prisoners were still alive in Syria.

Mrs. Meir recalled that, when the cease-fire agreement was drafted, Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev gave his word of honour that everything possible would be done to help secure the prisoners' release. President Nixon has since appealed to Mr. Brezhnev several times to keep this promise.

To obtain the release of its prisoners, Israel had agreed that 15,000 Syrian civilians be returned to the homes they left, and that U.N. forces be stationed on two Mount Hermon outposts now in Israeli hands. Influential political figures, including Arabs, have tried to intercede with Damascus, but to no avail, she said.

In Oslo, Foreign Ministry sources yesterday said Norway has approached Syria concerning the release of the Israeli prisoners. A government note expressing concern for the plight of the PoWs was delivered to Syria's U.N. ambassador, Haiman Kalani, at a meeting Wednesday with Norway's permanent U.N. representative, Ole Aalgard.

Israel has 63 Egyptian PoWs

The Israel Defence Forces are holding 63 Egyptian prisoners of war, including eight officers, captured on the southern front after the POW exchange between Israel and Egypt last month, the Israeli army spokesman announced last night.

He said they were all captured in Israeli-held territory on both banks of the Suez Canal, but did not say how they were captured.

There are no Israeli prisoners left in Egypt, the spokesman said.

Blast kills Spanish Premier

MADRID. — General Franco's Prime Minister and right-hand man was assassinated as he rode through a Madrid street yesterday — victim of a bomb triggered by remote control.

Seventy-year-old Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco died in hospital of injuries sustained when the blast tossed his car five storeys over a building and into the courtyard of a church where he had just attended Mass.

Security forces built up a picture of the assassination plot after on-the-spot investigations. An information Ministry announcement said the assassins had dug a tunnel out into the middle of the road from the basement of a house, and then planted the bomb there. They triggered it as the Prime Minister's car passed on a customary journey from the church.

Two persons in the car with Carrero were also killed. Some suspicion on the killing settled immediately on the basque guerrilla organization, dedicated to overthrowing the government. However, the guerrillas normally operate in the Northern Basque provinces. (Reuters, AP, UPI)

U.S. officials: 'It may take years for settlement'

By ISA SILVERMAN
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
WASHINGTON. — On the eve of the Geneva conference, American officials here acknowledge that it may take years to reach a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement, but they are nevertheless hopeful that the talks, put together at their initiative, will be successful.

State Department and White House sources stress that progress toward a Middle East settlement could lead to a lowering of East-West tensions, a reduction of the Soviet influence in the Middle East, an end to the Arab oil embargo and, not least, a visible achievement for the Watergate-weakened Nixon Administration.

Some Administration officials this week offered their assessment of the prospects for the conference. No one is willing to bet that any dramatic gains will be made in the next few months, and certainly not in the opening session before the Israeli elections. But neither does any of them predict an early collapse of the talks, due to deal first with troop disengagement on the Israeli-Egyptian front.

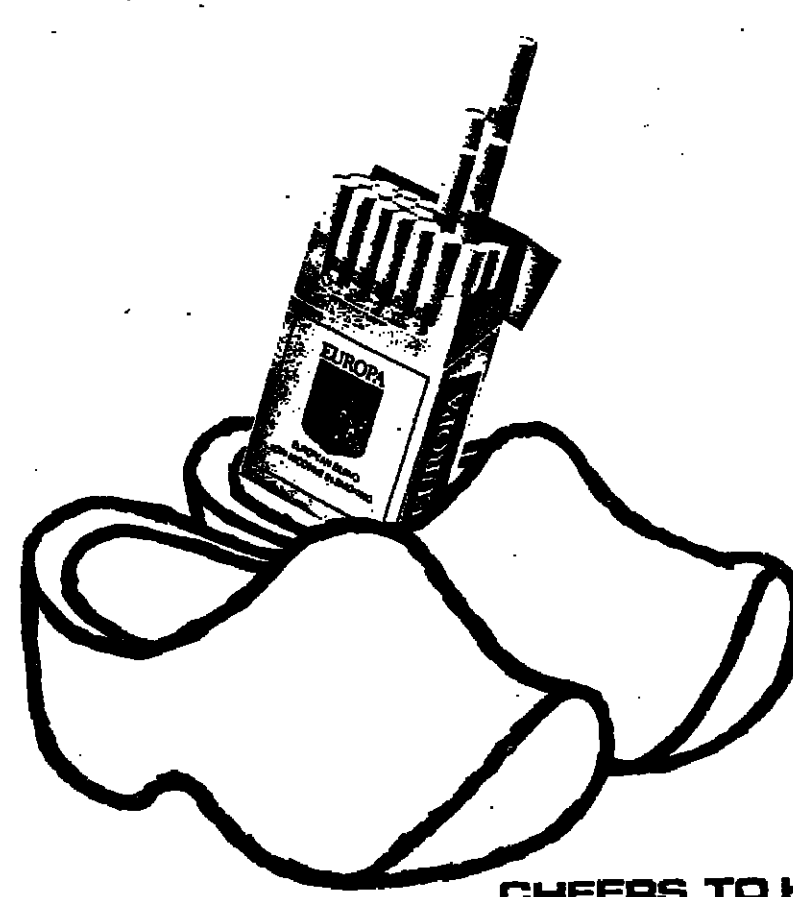
The news of the Syrian refusal to attend has still brought no official comment, but some American sources shared the sense of relief.

Jobert to visit Israel

PARIS (AP). — French Foreign Minister Michel Jobert will start a series of visits to Middle East countries, including Israel, with a trip to Saudi Arabia at the end of January, official sources said yesterday.

The sources said Jobert would visit two or three countries on each of a number of trips.

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TODAY AT THE CONGRESS
Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel
F, DEC. 21, 1973
1.00 a.m. PLENARY SESSION (Hall A)
Chairman: Mr. Shlomo Arad, C.E., I.T.C.C. Executive Committee
Election of I.T.C.C. Executive Council
Closing Address: Mr. Elhanan Feller, C.E., President, Association of Engineers and Architects in Israel
SATURDAY, DEC. 22, 1973
8.30 p.m. GALA FAREWELL BANQUET
Ballroom, Tel Aviv Hilton Hotel

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THE WEATHER
Forecast: Clear and dry
Outlook for Saturday: Clear to partly cloudy

	Yesterday's Humidity	Yesterday's Min.-Max.	Today's forecast
Jerusalem	59	7-11	9-15
Tel Aviv	64	10-15	12-18
Nahariya	44	4-10	6-12
Safed	41	3-10	5-12
Haifa	57	9-15	12-18
Be'er Sheva	57	9-15	12-18
Nahariya	44	4-10	6-12
Safed	41	3-10	5-12
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Nahariya	44	4-10	6-12
Safed	41	3-10	5-12
Haifa	57	9-15	12-18
Be'er Sheva	57	9-15	12-18

Social and Personal

President Ephraim Katzir on Wednesday night attended a testimonial dinner for Professor Sydney Goldstein, held at the Dan Carmel Hotel in Haifa, to mark his 70th birthday. The dinner was given as part of the international symposium on fluid dynamics held in Professor Goldstein's honour.

The Dutch Ambassador, Gerrit Jan Jongejans, and Mrs. Jongejans were the dinner guests Wednesday night of Ra'anana Local Council chairman Benjamin Walpovitz, on the occasion of an Israeli-Dutch solidarity rally organized jointly by Ra'anana, Kiryat Ono and Bishon Lerion.

The Ambassador of Norway and Mrs. Petter Graver gave a housewarming party for the Diplomatic Corps at their new home in Herzliya Pituah yesterday. The Chief of Protocol, Avigdor Shoham, was among the guests.

Arish Dabiz, Jewish Agency chairman, will speak on "The Nation and the State" at the Haifa Maritime and Economic Club, Zion Hotel, at 1 p.m. today. Reservations by phone, Tel. 511932.

The American poet Samuel Menashe "Prince of Fire," "No Jerusalem But This," will read his poetry at the U.S. Cultural Centre, Jerusalem, 19 Keren Hayesod, on Thursday, December 27, 7 p.m., and the U.S. Cultural Centre, Tel Aviv, 71a Hayarkon, on Saturday, December 29, 7:30 p.m.

Isaac H. Taylor, one of the founders of the Israel Bond Organization, celebrated his 81st birthday yesterday in Jerusalem. Bonds arranged to bring 20 friends and relatives from Baltimore to celebrate with him. Mr. Taylor endowed the Taylor Community Centre in the Kiryat Yovel quarter of Jerusalem.

IN MEMORIAM
LUNZER — Mrs. Celina Lunzer nee Eisenmann, widow of the late Hugo M. Lunzer of London, passed away peacefully in London. The funeral was on Monday, December 17, 1973, in London.

ARRIVALS
Arnold Forster, Associate National Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and Abraham E. Picman, Director of National Leadership of the League, for a two-week stay to record their "Outline Israel" radio program.

DEPARTURES
Meyer Weizal, Chancellor of the Weizmann Institute and Chairman of Yehuda Weizmann, for Europe and U.S. on Institute and Yehuda Weizmann affairs.

PAYIS WINNERS
The IL150,000 grand prizes in the Mifal Hapayis lottery were drawn yesterday by tickets No. 812466 and No. 524136. No. 281318 won IL50,000. Numbers 067369 and 699015 won IL12,500. Tickets 498756, 447542, 622120 and 704722 won IL6,250. Tickets ending in "1" won IL4. The following won IL1,250: 117011, 270787, 464862, 785592, 783983, 097267, 255852, 461515, 765764, 066529, 172375, 440052, 704134, 030894, 172358, 437641, 575370, 074502, 146456, 402144 and 570342.

The Israel Liaison Office of the AMERICAN PROFESSORS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST
Welcomes the National Executive Committee and regional campus representatives from the U.S.A. on their arrival to participate in a Two-week study mission in Israel!

OPEN FORUM
Sunday, Dec. 23, 1973, 8.15 p.m. at the Diplomat Hotel, Jerusalem which will feature reports by professors participating in the study mission on: "Reactions of American Campus Communities to the Yom Kippur War and the Mood in the Academic Community Today" The public is invited

We announce with deep sorrow the death in London of our beloved father and grandfather
REV. JACOB ISRAELSTAM
Samuel and Ruth and family of Kibbutz Beit Ha'emek

We deeply mourn the death of our beloved "mehutan"
REV. JACOB ISRAELSTAM
Alexander and Rivka Astor Neve Aviv Kfar Shmaryahu



THE ISRAELI DELEGATION to the Geneva Conference just before they boarded their plane at Lod Airport yesterday. From left to right: Foreign Ministry Legal Adviser Meir Rosenne, Foreign Minister Abba Eban, his Political Adviser Shmuel Divon, Assistant Director-General Ephraim Euron, and Political Secretary Eytan Bentur. (Friedla)

ALIGNMENT PLATFORM: Renewal of Soviet ties, autonomy for holy sites

By MARK SEGAL
Jerusalem Post Political Reporter
TEL AVIV. The final draft of the Alignment platform registers Israel's readiness to renew diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and offers autonomous rule for Christian and Moslem holy sites in Jerusalem.
(The Mapam Central Committee had endorsed the platform draft on Monday. It was then given its final touches in a joint Labour-Mapam committee which concluded its work in time for yesterday's meeting.)
These were two of the extra clauses adopted unanimously by the Labour Party Central Committee yesterday, in the final stage of its platform formulation. A fortnight ago it adopted the 14-point "peace and security" programme.
As amended the Jerusalem plank says: "united Jerusalem is the capital of the State. As in the past, the rights of all its inhabitants will be upheld, irrespective of religion and nationality. Peace arrangements will ensure the special religious status of the holy sites of Islam and Christianity under autonomous rule."
In a special clause, the Alignment declares the Likud's "not-one-inch" policy, which, it says, frustrates peace prospects and Israel's relations with its friends. The original clause on defensible borders was amended to read: "demilitarized zones and political arrangements will be included in peace agreements in addition to agreed and recognised secure borders, and not as substitutes."
Introducing the amendments, Minister Israel Galili rejected the notion that the amended platform "cultivates the illusion that peace is around the corner." Mr. Galili acknowledged that some of the amendments were introduced to satisfy Mapam, which retains the right to speak out differently on the settlement and Palestine planks but did not insist on voting independently in the Knesset.
However, Party Secretary-General Aharon Yadin reassured the Central Committee that Mapam rejects the idea of an independent Palestinian state.
In the ensuing debate, David Korn, MP, opposed the anti-Likud phrase. The Likud does not favour such a policy, he said, "and the Alignment only sets up a windmill and then tilts against it."
Presenting the social-economic policy planks, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir warned that resources would be limited in the next four years.

He predicted "no quick rise in living standards, no tax reductions, an extra effort from everyone, improved output and productivity and belt-tightening for the emergency."
On the brighter side, Mr. Sapir noted that output had risen by 15 per cent in some factories and during the past three months more immigrants had come than in the same period in previous years. He said war profiteering would be dealt with, and taxes were being docked at sources on all defence contracts.
Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee Chairman Haim Zadok tabled the civil rights plank calling for a written constitution. The state and religion plank promises to seek solutions to personal suffering, if necessary by legislation. Mr. Zadok explained that this meant the cases of *mamzerim* — people unable to wed by rabbinical prohibition.
Official party sources disclosed yesterday Labour has launched a campaign to rope in the undecided among the more dovishly inclined voters.
Zvi Kesse, son of former Lavonist M.K. Yona Kesse, is organizing the campaign. It will resemble the "Citizens for Eshkol" campaign in 1965 which is accredited with having brought in votes for five Knesset seats.
The first shot in the campaign was a half-page advertisement in yesterday's "Ha'aretz" publicizing a rally to be held tomorrow night in Tel Aviv. It is sponsored by a group of university professors and others who a fortnight ago campaigned for the ouster of Mrs. Meir and Mr. Dayan. Their slogan is "Nevertheless, the Alignment," explaining, "We believe that inside the Alignment we can effect a change in the line and in the leadership..."
The guest speakers at the rally will be Deputy Premier Yigal Allon and Labour's campaign chief Avraham Ofer.

4 Israelis hit on Canal

Jerusalem Post Military Correspondent
TEL AVIV. — Four Israeli soldiers were wounded on the Egyptian front yesterday during a day marked by frequent firing in the Canal's central and southern sectors, the army spokesman announced here.
The first two were hit in the early afternoon southwest of Fayid on the western side of the Canal. The Egyptians began firing there and in the Ismailiya area with small arms at 7 a.m. The repeated exchanges included a one-hour artillery and tank duel northwest of Fayid at 2.30 p.m.
The second two casualties came when the Egyptians fired mortars and small arms at Israeli forces in Sinal east of El-Balah Island, also at 2.30 p.m. Fire was returned.
The Egyptians also fired during the morning at Israeli troops guarding the Suez-Cairo highway, and at 1.25 p.m. aimed a half-hour artillery barrage at Israeli troops in the Adabiya Fort — Jebel Ataka sector. Fire was returned; there were no casualties.
Reuter reports from Cairo that the U.N. Emergency Forces yesterday lodged protest with both Egypt and Israel over an incident Wednesday when Finnish troops were pinned down by fire from both sides. (Full story, page 4)

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Knesset uproar over Geneva

By DAVID LANDAU and ASHER WALLFISH
Jerusalem Post Reporters
The Knesset exploded into angry uproar twice during the political debate yesterday with accusations of "blood libel" and "brazen impudence" flying between the Alignment and Likud benches.
The Alignment's Haim Zadok sowed havoc in the Likud ranks with a scathing display of the trial-lawyer's rhetoric. He challenged the opposition party to take a clear stand on the Geneva conference and on the territorial question — and exposed evident lack of clarity and dissent in the Likud camp on these vital issues.
Earlier, Likud leader Menachem Begin had triggered a flurry of heckling and counter-heckling when he accused the Alignment of "blood libel." He said the Alignment sought to drive a wedge through the heart of the nation, dividing it into those who seek peace — and support the Alignment — and those who want war and vote for Likud. This was a blood libel reminiscent of the worst manifestations of historical anti-Semitism, the opposition leader said. There was not a Jew in Israel who did not pray and yearn for peace.
The loudest heckler was Health Minister Victor Shemtov (Alignment-Mapam). "You bring us to war!... You are interested in war!" he shouted at Begin and at the Likud benches.
ZADOK THRUSTS
Speaker Yeshayahu called for a retraction of that phrase, but Mr. Landau refused to retract, pointing out that it was Biblical.
Premier Meir and her Deputy Yigal Allon were in their seats enjoying the opposition's obvious discomfiture.
Mr. Zadok launched in again. There were three basic questions: Was Likud ready for territorial compromise with Jordan? Did Likud accept Security Council Resolution 242 as Israel interpreted it? The shouted answers on this too were varied and various.
Mr. Zadok urged that all Likud members who could answer "Yes" to the three questions could "repent and join the peace party." This brought renewed shouting about war parties and peace parties.
If, however, Likud's answer was "No" — then for Likud to claim that it was in favour of going to Geneva was just a bluff, to earn electoral popularity.
"Our way," Mr. Zadok concluded, "there is no certainty of peace. Your way, there is certainty of no peace."
Mr. Begin himself was out of the Chamber throughout this speech. He was putting finishing touches to the Likud's election platform, to be published today.

Yitzhak Rabin (National Religious Party) said that for Israel to go to Geneva, without knowing just how much U.S. support it could count on, could lead to difficulties later. On the echoes of Dr. Kissinger's latest visit had aroused fears that he and Israel were not on the same wavelength.
RABBIEL WARNS
Dr. Raphael said his party regarded Resolution 242 as referring to an agreement with Egypt; but it had no relevance, as regards territorial compromise, to Judea and Samaria, Hebron, Jericho and Be'el were sacred sites, he said, not only Jerusalem. And the Jordan River must be made into the permanent border between Israel and Jordan for security reasons. On the other hand, Israel would have a great deal to offer to Jordan, as long as this offer did not include parts of Eretz Yisrael.
Yasacov Hazan (Alignment-Mapam) said he was not very happy about the Soviet Union being one of the sponsors at Geneva. But Geneva might open up possibilities of re-establishing diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. This was because the Soviets would be at a disadvantage at Geneva vis-a-vis the United States, which could talk to the Arabs and Israel alike. Moscow's pragmatic policy might dictate a resumption of ties to gain greater influence on the course of the conference.
Other speakers made the following points, among others:
* Shmuel Tamir (Likud-Free Centre): Israel has been willing to be dictated to, in connection with the timing, the procedures and the agenda of the Geneva talks, in a way which ill benefits a sovereign state, and which should give grounds for much apprehension about this country's future.
* Shmuel Mikunis (Moked-Communists): It is not too late for us to create democratic framework for the Arabs of the occupied territories, so that they can elect governing bodies in time for the Geneva talks — to attend and to negotiate with us.
* Gideon Hausner (Independent Liberals): If the Geneva talks continue, all the Ministers in the post-election Cabinet must adhere to the principle that possession of territories is not enough to prevent war, and must follow a common peace programme.
PORUSH ON SABBATH
* Menachem Porush (Agudat Israel): We would win greater respect in the eyes of the Jewish people and of the Gentiles, if we did not attend the Geneva conference on the Sabbath.
* If the Arab demands at Geneva endanger our existence, we are all united in rejecting them.
* Aizman Cahana (Poale Aguda): Let that some of the Israeli personalities seen to Geneva as advisers and information experts are very far from insisting on our unshakeable rights in the Land of the Patriarchs. There are too many Israelis in Geneva who are ready to make concessions over Judea and Samaria.
Before the House approved the motion tabled by the Alignment and the ILP, summing up the debate on Premier Golda Meir's policy statement, it struck down draft motions tabled by the Likud Bloc, the Aguda and Poale Aguda, the New Communists and the Communists.

The Likud and the three religious factions (including the Coalition NRP) tried to secure a vote of opinion on the issue of Sabbath attendance at Geneva, but the attempt was foiled by a majority of the House, in a 49-26 count.
The NRP aroused the ire of the Alignment by backing the idea of votum separandum, as it did even more by abstaining on the Alignment-ILP motion, an action which could have caused a major Condition crisis, had the election not been 11 days away.

Mr. Begin sought to end with a quotation from the Book of Macabees, but he was interrupted by Speaker Yeshayahu who urged him to finish. This unprecedented behaviour by the Speaker to the leader of the Opposition caused renewed uproar on the Likud benches and raised eyebrows on the Alignment side too. Mr. Begin said he would ignore the Speaker's interruption and read the three-verse quotation as he had planned.
Mr. Zadok, who is chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, said Israel was going to Geneva without illusions, but in the hope that the conference might mark an historic turning point. There was no need for fear UN auspices. The talks at Kilometre 101 had been under formal UN auspices — but this had not disturbed their progress.
Having made these remarks, Mr. Zadok weighed into the Likud. Mr. Begin, he said, took the easy way out. He pointed out the dangers and problems of the Geneva conference — without answering the key question: was he, in the circumstances that existed today, in favour of going to Geneva?

Yigal Horowitz of the State List shouted that Likud was in favour. Mr. Zadok replied that he had yet to hear that from Mr. Begin himself.
Was Likud's policy "not to yield an inch" as regards the West Bank? Mr. Zadok now asked. This brought an assortment of shouted responses, not all of them consistent and some of them irrelevant. Haim Landau exclaimed that the Alignment policy was to cede Jerusalem to the rule of El Fatah. This, he said, was what the Alignment meant by its quest for peace — and that was "brazen impudence."

Prime Minister Golda Meir and opposition leader Menachem Begin addressing the Knesset yesterday.

Hope of progress on disengagement
Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Israel is hopeful that a satisfactory solution can be negotiated at Geneva to the problem of disengagement of forces — a problem the first item on the conference agenda. Senior Government officials feel that both Egypt and Israel are interested in a settlement to this issue — a settlement which would enable a conference to proceed under less pressure than if the armistice to face each other in confrontation positions.
Talks on a disengagement are due to resume in Geneva January seventh. Aluf Aharon Yariv will represent Israel.
Premier Meir made clear at the Knesset yesterday that her government would be prepared to take part in disengagement talks even after the elections and before the new government sworn in. Mrs. Meir said the subject had been extensively discussed with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger this week and that the discussion had not been concluded.
Senior officials said the U.S. Secretary had brought with him from Cairo, Egypt's latest thinking on the subject — which was slightly different from the last proposals made at Kilometre 101. Dr. Kissinger had listened at length to Israel's views on the subject, but had not made definite suggestions of his own.
Israel's basic offer — total evacuation of the west bank of the Canal in return for almost total Egyptian evacuation of the east bank — remains valid, the officials said. Israel proposes the Egypt leave only a policing force on the east bank with a UN force stationed between it and the Israelis.

Hope of progress on disengagement

Prime Minister Golda Meir and opposition leader Menachem Begin addressing the Knesset yesterday.

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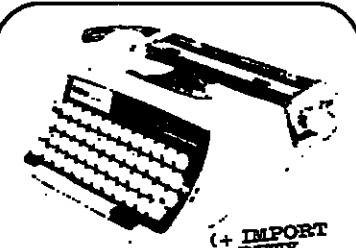
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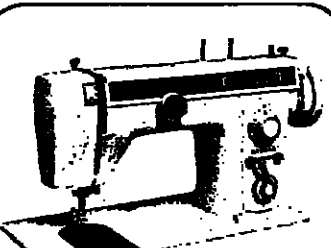
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\$2,200m. from U.S. for arms SENATE VOTES ISRAEL AID

WASHINGTON (Reuter). — The Senate voted yesterday to authorize \$2,200m. in emergency aid to Israel to replace arms losses sustained in the war.

The vote on the bill in favour of the aid was 66 to nine. Already approved by the House of Representatives, the measure now goes to the White House for President Nixon's signature.

The Senate approved the funds for Israel after defeating a series of amendments introduced by Senator William Fulbright (Democrat, Arkansas) to cut them back or to put off the measure for further deliberation.

Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, argued that providing massive military aid to Israel at this time would undermine the Middle East peace conference by "sending

the wrong signals" to the parties involved. The Israelis would read Senate approval of the aid as a sign that they would not have to negotiate, while the Arabs would decide the talks were hopeless, Senator Fulbright said.

Supporters of Israel said the money was necessary to maintain a military balance in the Middle East and to give Israel a strong negotiating position in the peace talks.

The actual money for Israel is contained in an overall Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill approved by a joint Senate-House of Representatives conference committee on Wednesday.

However, the Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill contains a provision that states that the aid for Israel is contingent upon passage of an authorizing bill, which sets the ceiling for expenditures.

U.N. men 'fear Palestinian terror' TIGHT SECURITY IN GENEVA

GENEVA. — Security precautions for the Middle East peace talks opening here today have been described as the most stringent ever seen in this traditional "city of peace."

Swiss authorities have mobilized police from all over the country and brought in cadets from the Swiss army training school at Berne to guard Geneva's airport and the Palais des Nations.

Armed police guarded all approaches to the hotels where the main delegates are staying. U.S. and Israeli secret service agents have joined U.N. and Swiss security police in maintaining security precautions.

Ten truckloads of troops in battle dress were on hand at the airport for the arrival of delegations, with policemen lining the route into the city.

Police broke into and searched an automobile with Algerian license plates that had been parked for two days near the main railroad station, but reported finding no bombs or weapons.

Geneva police sources said that more than 100 American agents were in town to protect Secretary of State Henry Kissinger — at a cost of one million dollars.

"It looks like being the biggest security blanket ever, and the biggest reason is the fear of Palestinian terrorists," one of the United Nations top security officials said.

"The hijacking and killings at Rome this week have created a top alert situation," he said.

News of the death in Madrid in a bomb explosion of Spanish Prime Minister Luis Carrero Blanco made security men even tenser.

Both U.S. and Israeli agents have joined U.N. security officials in checking newsmen entering the section of the Palais des Nations reserved for news media.

The Palais, European headquarters of the United Nations, mobilized its full security force and brought

in outsiders to help, among them George Ashton, former personal bodyguard of the late Sir Winston Churchill when he was British Prime Minister.

Egyptian, American and Jordanian bodyguards warily eyed each other in Geneva's Intercontinental Hotel, where their delegations are staying. Swiss soldiers guarded the hotel with machineguns. Two stood on the roof of the nearby Palais des Nations, scrutinizing pedestrians in the courtyard below who had already had to pass through two credential checks.

Armed Swiss police guarded the grounds of the hotel La Reserve — where Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban and his delegation were staying. Entry into the grounds of the hotel was allowed only after careful scrutiny of the identity of visitors.

Security precautions included walkie-talkie checks between police at the entrance of the hotel grounds with colleagues within the premises, as a double-check on documents shown to the guards.

Security guards will make full searches of reporters covering the opening of the talks and photographers have been warned to use film magazines that can be exposed to daylight without being ruined.

A U.N. spokesman said that security officials wanted no journalists to be at the meetings in the Council chamber at the Palais. But a compromise was reached whereby 150 of the 600 accredited will be allowed to attend.

Others will have to follow by closed-circuit television.

For those entering, "there will be a complete search of people, equipment and film magazines. Camera-men must have the kind of equipment which enables them to change the film in daylight," the spokesman said.

Departures during the session will be restricted and anyone who leaves and tries to re-enter will be fully searched again. (AP, UPI, Reuter)

Loans plan for firms hit by tourist drop

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Ministry of Tourism is considering a proposal for the grant of loans on easy terms to commercial enterprises hit by the drop in tourism.

The proposal emerges from a study of the situation in the tourist industry by the sub-committee on tourism and hotels, attached to the Emergency Advisory Council. It was discussed yesterday by a group of senior ministry officials, chaired by Minister Moshe Kol.

The total sum of the loans considered was IL51.2m., for the six-month period from October to March next year.

The sub-committee report recommended that recipients of loans include hotels, travel agencies, tour operators, souvenir shops, guides and organizers of international conventions. The report also suggested intensified promotion of tourism, including increased publicity abroad in the various media available, the total cost of which was estimated at IL21m.

Mr. Kol also delegated his Director-General, Hanoeh Givon, to consult with the Treasury on the possibility of offering material incentives to regions suffering from the tourism slowdown.



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Soviet and Egyptian Foreign Ministers Andrei Gromyko and Ismail Fahmy smile as they are escorted by newsmen after dining together in Geneva on Wednesday night.

U.S. CALL TO KUWAIT REPORTED

Italy wants to try hijackers

ROME. — Italian Justice Minister Mario Zagari is to ask for the extradition of the five Arab terrorists who carried out the Rome airport massacre and are now in custody in Kuwait, justice officials said here.

Mr. Zagari will present an extradition request to the Foreign Ministry to be transmitted to the Kuwaiti Government through diplomatic channels.

The request was expected to be presented yesterday after a magistrate dealing with the case had prepared charges against the group, the officials said.

Legal experts here said likely charges against the Arabs included massacre, multiple homicide, grievous bodily harm, kidnap, and the importing of weapons of war.

The U.S. has urged Kuwait to either put on trial or extradite the five terrorists, the State Department said in Washington.

Department spokesman Paul Hare said that the U.S. Ambassador in Kuwait, William Stutzman, had been directed to reaffirm that justice should be carried out.

A Beirut report says that a terrorist leader Yasser Arafat is seeking the extradition of the five hijackers so that they can "stand

trial before a Palestinian revolutionary court."

Arafat has instructed the Kuwait office of the Palestine Liberation Organization to put the extradition request to the Kuwaiti Government, the Beirut newspaper "Al-Moharrer" reported yesterday.

The terrorist-controlled Palestinian agency Wafa reported that the FLO would demand that the gunmen be turned over to the terrorist leadership after the interrogation "so that a proper punishment be meted out on them."

"NOT TERROR CENTRE" In Rome, the head of the police political office, Dr. Umberto Improta, denied reports that there was a permanent Arab base in Rome which helped terrorists passing through the Italian capital or launching attacks from there.

He also said that police now believed there had been only five terrorists, and earlier reports that others had been involved were for the moment discounted.

Despite the Bonn hijacking, Lufthansa planes continued to fly without security men yesterday.

A member of the management board of Lufthansa, Werner Utter, said in Frankfurt yesterday the fact that all but one of the hostages aboard the plane hijacked by the terrorists in Rome survived experience proved the company decision was right. "We will continue to fly with weapons or armed men aboard planes," Utter told a news conference.

But the Interior Minister of Bavaria, Bruno Merk, has proposed that the Federal Government landing permission to any arriving or leaving to guarantee advance that passengers luggage have been searched weapons.

Following the Rome mass airports around Europe are tightening their security measures.

In Brussels, the number of gun around aircraft has been increased and mounted policemen patrol airports.

In Copenhagen, the airport have been provided with arms.

In Paris, French airport authorities will search all passengers. Only Airport both on arrival and departure. Sharpshooters will be duty round the clock and arm guards are being posted close aircraft. (Reuter, AP, UPI, IN)

'MAY TAKE YEARS'

(Continued from page one)

expressed by Israelis here. The absence of the Syrians is expected to soften the Arab negotiating position, and enable the Israeli delegation to avoid a showdown on the prisoner-of-war issue and thus to participate in the talks.

It was reported here that officials travelling with Secretary of State Kissinger indicated that the Secretary was assured by Syrian President Assad that the Israeli prisoners were being "well treated."

It is thought that Syria is following North Vietnam's example of using the prisoners as a bargaining weapon.

The resolution of Israeli-Syrian differences, however, is not seen as crucial for progress in the Israeli meeting with Egypt and Jordan. The absence of Syria from Geneva is in fact viewed by some observers as a potentially positive factor in getting the talks moving.

Some U.S. officials resent the continued American and Israeli press reports of American strong-arm pressure on Israel to make major concessions in the course of the conference. While they do not doubt that American leverage will be used to obtain Israeli flexibility, they insist that no such pressure has yet been brought to bear to force Israeli concessions.

They point to evidence of continued American good faith in its commitment to Israel and its security needs. Among these signs, they say, are the American efforts for a low-level involvement of the U.N. in the Geneva talks, and the Administration's determination to obtain \$2,200m. in military aid for Israel.

"They already have all the leverage they need," one Israeli source said. "The question is how they will use it." No high American official has yet offered an answer.

U.N. troops 'endangered' in Suez battle

CAIRO (Reuter). — The U.N. Emergency Force (Unef) yesterday lodged strong protests with Egypt and Israel over a gun battle which endangered U.N. troops along the Suez Canal cease-fire line.

In the exchange, on Wednesday night, Finnish U.N. troops were planned down by Israeli and Egyptian mortars, machineguns and small arms. There were no U.N. casualties, but a supply building used by the Finns was hit by small arms fire.

Wednesday's clash followed more than a week of heightened activity along the cease-fire line.

On Tuesday the number of violations of the cease-fire reached a new record of 71, U.N. spokesman Rudolf Stajduhar said.

Informed sources said the growing use of mortars and machineguns a serious change for the worse in the front line.

Mr. Stajduhar said the U.N. did not identify which side started shooting on Wednesday night.

The Unef commander, Gen. Ennio Silasvuo, lodged a protest with both sides and appealed for restraint to observe cease-fire and ensure the safety of Unef personnel, the spokesman said.

Syria rejects pressure

BEIRUT (UPI). — Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam flew to Saudi Arabia and North Yemen yesterday to deliver messages from Syrian President Hafez Assad, the Iraqi News Agency reported.

After a brief meeting with Saudi Arabia's King Faisal in Riyadh, Khaddam flew on to the Yemeni capital of Sana'a to meet President Abdel Rahman Iryani.

In its dispatch from Sana'a the Iraqi agency quoted Khaddam as saying the message from Assad dealt with the general situation in the Arab region and Syria's refusal to attend the Geneva conference.

In his statement at Sana'a port, Khaddam said Syria was subjected to all kinds of pressure to make the government change mind about boycotting the conference, but rejected them all.

"Syria is not a country, it submits to pressures," Khaddam said on Wednesday. Assad received a message from Soviet Communist Party chief Leonid Brezhnev at visit from Jordan's King Hussein.

Diplomatic sources said they feared both Brezhnev and Hussein urged Assad to attend the conference in the interests of Arab solidarity.

All well on Soyuz-13

MOSCOW (AP). — The two Soviet cosmonauts aboard their Soyuz-13 spaceship conducted scientific experiments on the third day of their flight, and all systems were functioning normally, Tass reported yesterday.

The craft was launched on day on an earth orbit. U.S. Centre sources in Houston said Soyuz-13 might try to link up with a Salyut space station which was launched secretly November 30. But there was indication in the brief news report Thursday indicating an attempt would be made.

The cosmonauts, Maj. Klimuk and his flight cos. Valentin Lebedev, completed a ration of scientific equipment, went a medical checkup with ground control station and morning exercises and had a fast sleep.

"The two 'feel well' and 'are functioning normally,' the report added. Ups were made of the 'Orion' telescope system.

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'The Clay Pigeon': Viet vet fights L.A. drug mafia

The Clay Pigeon (Hod, Tel Aviv), is the story of a Vietnam war hero reluctantly involved in the CIA's fight against a big narcotics ring in Los Angeles.

The film is something of a one-man effort by Tom Stern, who plays the leading role and in addition doubles as producer and director. He acts quite well as the disillusioned veteran, who becomes a social dropout and starts taking drugs on his return to civilian life. He has also elicited competent performances from his cast, which includes Telly Savalas as the police chief, and Burgess Meredith — as good as ever — in the part of an eccentric junk-dealer.

Stern has turned out a highly original — if somewhat pretentious — movie, thanks to the use of unusual camera angles and imaginative cutting, as well as the introduction of several clever underground songs. In some realistic scenes of badly hooked young drug addicts, he also brings home the full horrors of the narcotics racket.

But Stern burdens the viewer with an over-complicated, meandering plot, and in his efforts to create excitement he lays too much stress on brutality. All told, this is a brave try which does not really come off.

(The new Israel film "Light Out



of Nowhere," reviewed in these columns earlier this week, is not now showing at Tel Aviv's Paris Cinema but will be returning there after the emergency.)

The Last of Sheila (Limor, Tel Aviv). One night Sheila, wife of film producer Clinton (James Coburn), is killed by a hit-and-run driver. Sometime later Clinton invites six friends, all connected with films, for a week's holiday in the Mediterranean on his yacht. Once he has them on board he announces that each night they are going to play a game called "The Last of Sheila" (also the name of his next film in which they are all involved). This is a sort of "hare and hounds" intended to reveal his guests' guilty secrets — Clinton is a malicious man — and, it is indicated, also Sheila's murderer.

The notion is original and with an all-star cast that includes Richard Benjamin (Tom), Dyan Cannon (Christine), Joan Hackett (Lee), James Mason (Philip), Ian McShane (Anthony) and Raquel Welch (Alice) and with Herbert Ross as director.

Shuttle service for soldiers endangered by lack of funds

By JUDY SIEGEL Jerusalem Post Reporter

THE Jerusalem-Jericho-Jerusalem shuttle, which has transported over 30,000 soldiers on leave between their homes and bases in the last two months, runs daily thanks to the selfless cooperation of a few dozen volunteers.

But unless more funds and drivers with vehicles are found soon, this two-month-old service may come to a grinding halt.

"Most of our drivers are pensioners and new English- or French-speaking immigrants, and their teamwork and devotion have been incredible," says volunteer dispatcher Shraga Ben-Gal, who is, in normal times, a curriculum planner at the Hebrew University's Amos de Schalit Science Teaching Centre. Fuel for each 70-kilometre round trip costs about IL10, and many of the drivers make three to eight runs every day. They pay their own car maintenance and repair costs and many of them have not even submitted bills for petrol.

The Jerusalem Municipality has been more than generous in providing fuel for the operation, but there

is a limit. "Perhaps," suggests Mr. Ben-Gal, "there are people willing to donate money for continuing this vital service."

The carless day that began last Sunday threatens to reduce the shuttle's level of operations unless more drivers come forward. "Even those who can make only one trip a day—in the morning, during lunch or after work—are doing a valuable job," emphasizes Mr. Ben-Gal.

For those who consider volunteering, the following information will be helpful: The shuttle operates from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the round trip takes an hour to 90 minutes, depending on the waiting time at either end for the soldier-passengers. It begins at the New Gate in Jerusalem and ends at the police station outside Jericho. The most wanted hours are between 7 and 11 a.m., noon and 2 p.m., and 3 to 4 p.m.

Anyone who is prepared to help should come to the New Gate and register with one of the volunteer dispatchers, who will answer all questions and explain any additional details.

"The drivers are not the only

volunteers in this service," says Mr. Ben-Gal. "At the Jerusalem terminus of the shuttle are women who provide and prepare coffee, soup, sandwiches, cake and cigarettes for soldiers while they wait for a lift or upon their return — hot and hungry — from Jericho."

Although none of the drivers is paid, they are simply rewarded by the infectious high morale of the soldiers they are helping. "Hundreds of servicemen, as well as wives and parents, have expressed their gratitude for the service. In simplest terms, it means to each man an extra hour or two at home with his family."

"The wastage of time, the frustration of standing for hours on a corner in a remote town, the degrading necessity—born of this frustration—to above and push a fellow soldier out of the way in order to get a lift to base and get on with the job," says Mr. Ben-Gal, "are not short of appalling. We amateurs, who organized ourselves almost accidentally, are trying to do the job. It's time that the authorities — both civil and military — begin to look for a solution."

Government coins seen as good investment FOREIGN NUMISMATISTS ORDER ISRAELI COINS

By ERNIE MEYER Jerusalem Post Reporter

Since the Yom Kippur War, over 2,000 numismatists from abroad and a similar number in Israel have taken out subscriptions with the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation.

"This figure is much higher than the normal increase," Yisrael Avni, director of the corporation said in a recent interview at the firm's modest head office on Jerusalem's Rehov Karen Hayesod.

I asked Mr. Avni about a recent press notice which quoted several dealers as saying that "the bottom is falling out of the memorial coin market." The story went on to say that the three-coin gold set commemorating Israel's 25th anniversary now sells for IL3,800, while a short time ago it sold for IL5,500.

Mr. Avni said the IL5,500 quotation by speculators was never realistic and was made during a period of "coin hysteria," which everybody in the field recognized as a temporary and artificial phenomenon. "But what is wrong with a more than 100 per cent profit for a subscriber who bought the set for IL1,620 only six months ago," he asked.

No Israel commemorative coin has even fallen below issue price; on the contrary, all have appreciated, some by thousands of per cent, he added. Mr. Avni said the IL5 nominal value Seafaring coin, sold to subscribers for IL10 in 1963, today has a market value of about IL1,700. Because Israel has been constantly in the news in the last three months, the Israel coin market overseas is booming, he added.

In September, 1972, the corporation had 5,000 subscribers in Israel. That figure has risen to 32,000 now, he pointed out.

40,000 SUBSCRIBERS

"We have over 40,000 subscribers abroad, the vast majority of them in the U.S. In Europe the best markets are in Germany, Italy and Switzerland, in that order," he said.

Some 90 per cent of subscribers buy commemorative coins, with only ten per cent interested in the medals. (Coins have a nominal value and are legal tender issued by the Bank of Israel; medals in bronze, silver or gold are bought for their artistic and commemorative value, but have no monetary value.)

Asked the secret behind the success of Israeli coins, Mr. Avni gave three reasons: outstanding graphic design; the story behind each coin; and the corporation's conservative mintage policy.

"In the last ten years, demand for our coins has always exceeded supply," Mr. Avni said. "That is because we mint limited amounts and strictly adhere to our announced figures. Despite the fact that we compete with over 40 countries, which also mint special coins and medals, ours are perhaps the most popular on the market. That market



The 1974 Pidyon Ha-Ben coin (IL10), with a design unchanged from last year, available in brilliant uncirculated and proof condition.



IL5 Hanukkah coin featuring an 18th century Babylonian menorah, meant to symbolize the struggle for aliyah by Jews in Arab lands.

is estimated to include some eight million collectors in the U.S. alone, he added.

The importance of the international coin market is illustrated by the fact that the "Bible" of numismatics, the weekly "Coin World" published in Sidney, Ohio, has a 137,000 paid circulation. A recent issue, in which Israeli coins featured prominently, had 96 pages.

It is a well known fact that 99 per cent of collectors buy because of the anticipated appreciation of their coins, and as a safe investment, Mr. Avni said. But we see our work as an additional tool of Israel's information service abroad. Through our coins, which always come with folders explaining the event commemorated, we win many friends, he added.

For many people overseas, our coins are the only link with Israel. Since we are the only address they know here, we are the recipients of many donations for the war effort, he said as he pulled out a sheaf of letters.

One letter from a Naples subscriber, dated October 17, directs the corporation to give \$500 from his standing account to the war effort. A West German subscriber writes: "Cancel my \$50 order for coins and give the money to the war chest instead."

While the Israel Coins and Medals Corporation is clearly a great commercial success, some cracks and groans in its internal administration are perhaps its weakest spot. The staff has only expanded from 30 to 35 in the last ten years, and a firm whose net profit increased from IL350,000 in 1963 to an anticipated IL38m. this year, warrants a bigger staff and more spacious quarters.

Army unit in Syria helps aged villagers

Jerusalem Post Reporter

KUNEITRA. — An army unit stationed on the Golan Heights has adopted 23 aged Syrian men and women who were unable to flee from their village together with the rest of the 2,000 population when it was taken by the advancing Israeli forces.

The soldiers provide the oldesters with food from their rations, water, cigarettes and even fuel for heating their homes. Communication is mostly by sign language.

The old people live in two houses. In one, the soldiers found a man wounded in the shelling and brought in an army doctor to treat him.

Schwarzberg performs at Targ Centre

MUSIC YOHANAN BOEHM

THERE is some very promising talent among recent immigrant musicians from Russia and the two artists heard at the Targ Music Centre last Monday are in the front rank. Dora Schwarzberg, a young violinist with some international prizes to her credit, is an instrumentalist with an unsophisticated approach to music and sound technical and interpretative resources at her command. Not all styles suit her personality equally well — her

Bach was somewhat aggressive in spots, the Mozart too romantic, perhaps — but in the Stravinsky's important Duo Concertante the more attractive dynamic nuances of wide range, sparkling virtuosity, rhythmic precision and stimulating sounds which all made for an enjoyable appreciation of the violinist's ability. She had in Boris Berman, another recent arrival, a most helpful partner who played with great understanding and applied his considerable qualities with intelligent accommodation to the different requirements — classical and modern in the Locatelli Sonata, perfect execution of the keyboard part in the Bach E Major Violin Sonata and a splendid performance all round in the Stravinsky Duo. He is a pianist with a most interesting personality whom one would like to hear in a solo recital. His reputedly high qualities as harpsichordist will be put to the test in tomorrow's recital at the Tel Aviv Museum (see "Poster"). Dora Schwarzberg is now the leader of the "Jerusalem Soloists."

THE ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC Orchestra returned on Wednesday morning from a week of concerts in four European countries.

THIS week's concert of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, dedicated to Dvorak in the "Portrait of a Composer." The

usually scheduled guest conductor, Moshe Atzmon, was substituted by Lukas Foss. Through Dvorak's greatly influenced by Brahms, especially by Brahms, there was a convincing reason to interpret music as if he had had two German grandmothers. Everything was so bendingly Prussian, with the big brass having a field day, the

musicians too obtrusive, and flowing Bohemian melodiousness underplayed to a disturbing degree. The "Carnival" Overture, some like the Ophicleide in Munich, was some inexplicable cuts show that the conductor had tried to "improve" on the score, a ther debateable procedure. In such close attention to detail may have brought out some inner voices — customarily heard in other performances but it seemed to break a natural flow of the music. Mr. Foss were too stiff and dragging in my taste, and at times oversteering. The rather naive device of holding back when playing pianissimo and rushing when having loud passages, made one regret that the conductor's enthusiasm did not as well as expectations and demands. Surprisingly, the orchestra did not react with desired precision in mar entrances, a sine qua non for go performances.

Bones indicate man walked upright 3,000,000 years ago

NEW YORK (AP). — Man may have walked upright more than three million years ago, according to a new find of leg bones in Ethiopia. If the estimate of the age of the bones is confirmed, the finding would be the first direct evidence that man was walking erect that long ago.

The finding was reported in Addis

Ababa by Dr. Carl Johanson, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, who said he found fossilized human bones last October at the Hadar River basin near the town of Dessie in Wollo Province.

Dr. Johanson told the "Ethiopia Herald" in an interview published last Sunday that the find constituted the only known evidence that man was walking on two legs three or more million years ago.

Dr. Johanson, a paleontologist, said that after spending 10 weeks in the field with a group of American and French scientists, he found a small piece of bone sticking out of the ground.

"The first time I looked at it," he said, "it appeared to be that of a monkey, but comparing it in my mind, I knew it was the bone of a very ancient human being." He plans to bring the bones back to the U.S. for carbon dating.

'Most beautiful building in Jerusalem'

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek said Wednesday that the Porat Yosef Yeshiva now being built across the plaza from the Western Wall would be the most beautiful building in Jerusalem. The Mayor spoke at a short ceremony at the building site to mark the casting of the first floor.

The building, designed by Moshe Safdie, will rise to a height of ten floors.

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef said that the ceremony, on the eve of the Geneva conference, was symbolic. At Geneva certain parties would contest Israel's right to Jerusalem. But Israel was determined that Jerusalem would be its eternal and undivided capital, and the Yeshiva was an earnest of this intention.

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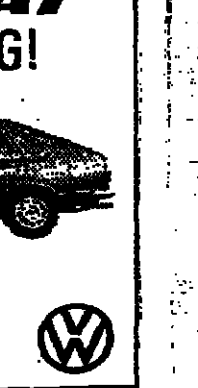
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EVEN SO...?

From Kippur War exposed the failure of the policy of situation and status quo, the policy which had been employed by government and which has brought a reaction of bitterness justified indignation from many people.

Feeling is liable to result in a strengthening of the Likud, escape to their taking over the government.

THE GREAT DANGER IN THIS DEVELOPMENT parties making up the Likud, which is lead by Herut, are aware of the political concepts which brought us to our present on.

Guard with anxiety the possibility of the strength and in- of this list increasing in the political life of Israel, a element that could block initiatives for a political accommoda- and increase the threat of war.

the division of opinions inside Hama'arach, we feel that loc has the potential to tip the balance in favour of a correct of direction, and to introduce within a short period innova- in policy and leadership.

so various first signs of this in some of the new principles ma'arach's platform, and in the stand taken by some of the' ending people.

vite you to participate in a meeting, the object of which is ist in the setting up a barrier in front of the Likud list, and mine the possibility of aiding Hama'arach, while promoting res of renewal now visible in that bloc.

taking part in the discussion will include:

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Prime Minister YIGAL ALLON, and AVRAHAM OFFER, have been invited to take part.

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On Wednesday, December 26, 1973, at 6.00 p.m. a lecture by

Prof. Sir EENST GOMBERG

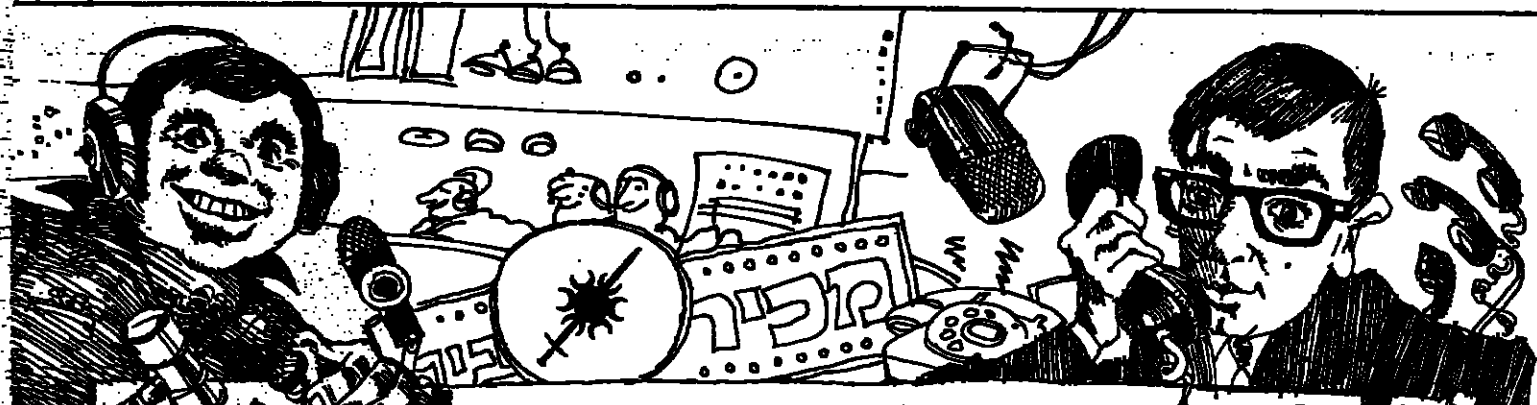
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Notes: 1. The programme will be conducted in accordance with standard auction procedure.

2. Those purchasing items of sentimental value will receive a receipt, testifying their contribution, pursuant to para. 45a of the Income Tax Ordinance.

הכרזת מדינה

ON DECEMBER 31 YOU WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE STATE — YOUR FUTURE

YOU WILL DECIDE —

BETWEEN a prospect of peace with our neighbours

AND the road leading to unceasing war

BETWEEN a policy of close friendship with the U.S.A.

AND adventurism endangering this friendship

BETWEEN a policy of striving for peace and the strengthening of our security

AND the "not one inch" mentality

BETWEEN willingness for territorial compromise and the acceptance of defensible borders

AND the approach which disregards realities in the region and the world

BETWEEN a checking and adaption of policy to changing circumstances

AND the inability to learn and change

BETWEEN the declaration of peace and security as central aims

AND the preferring of the Areas to peace

BETWEEN the wish to maintain the Jewish character of Israel

AND willingness to add a large Arab population

BETWEEN readiness to maintain friendly relations with a Jordanian-Palestinian state

AND the ignoring of the existence and aspirations of the Palestinians

BETWEEN preparedness to go to a peace conference at any time, without prior conditions

AND the creation of difficulties, likely to doom the conference to failure before it starts

On December 31, you will have to decide
between political realism and a realistic
approach to security
and empty slogans and political rigidity

STRENGTHEN THE CAUSE OF PEACE AND SECURITY

Give them your vote and strengthen their voice

הצבעת

VOTE EMET Hama'aragch/Israel Labour Party-Mapa

OUR VULNERABLE PARTIES

THE raucous debate in the Knesset yesterday following Mrs. Meir's political statement bore the heavy imprint of the election campaign. Mr. Begin mustered all of his considerable capacity for indignation and directed it against the Alignment's election effort to brand his Likud party as the party of war. At the same time Mr. Zadok thrust deeply into the Likud's campaign, which upbraids the Alignment for failures without however proposing clear policies of its own.

The fact is that in this unusual election campaign both of our major parties are easily given to being discomfited by the other.

The Alignment, the repository of the dominant Labour stream whose blend of pragmatism and iron determination won it long-standing pre-eminence in the Yishuv and the State, is more vulnerable in this election than ever in the past to the Likud's insistence on the need for change.

But the Likud, and especially its dominant and dogmatic Herut wing, has become more vulnerable to the Alignment's insistence on the need now more than ever before for that blend of determination and pragmatism which it represents.

Each party is well aware of its vulnerability and has in its own way tried to signal the voter that it is ready to act

accordingly. The Alignment campaign effort includes assurances that if and when it constitutes a new Government, there will be change — in the form of new faces.

The Likud — through its Liberal wing — tells the voter that there is room for territorial compromise. In theory it is easier to bring in new faces than to amend dogmas. But in our electoral system, which concentrates power at the very top party echelons and perpetuates old faces, that too is not simple.

Yet it is telling that Mr. Begin has not been able to accede to the appeals from within the Likud to bend, if only a degree or two, on his rigid territorial principle. The Liberals and other elements in the Likud have implored the Herut leader to counter the Alignment not simply by the old argument of a need for a change, but by letting the voter know that he too is prepared to change, to give a little. But Mr. Begin has stood firm.

It was precisely this rigidity which Mr. Zadok was able to expose yesterday to the chagrin of Mr. Begin's Likud partners.

Debates in the Knesset, however heated or acute, have little public resonance, especially in an election campaign. And as we enter the last week of the campaign it will be the slogans and clichés that will fill the air. But the voter will know that his choice is more complex than the slogans allow.

By ARI RATH and ANAN SAFADI
Jerusalem Post Correspondents

THE stage is set. The leading actors are already on the scene. But the main theme of the play — "Israeli-Arab Peace" — still seems as remote as ever. After days of tough bargaining, exercises in futility and diplomatic winds blowing hot and cold, the official word was finally out: the Middle East peace conference would open on Friday morning.

The intricate phrasing of the joint Soviet-American letter of invitation could stand up very well to any work of Talmudic sophistry. It managed to find a redeeming formula distinguishing between U.N. auspices and Soviet-American co-chairmanship of the conference and tried to solve the thorny problem of Palestinian representation by saying that the parties had agreed to discuss the question of "other participants from the Middle East" during the first stage of the conference.

But even then, Syria, one of the Middle East's most ferocious and savage belligerents, has decided to stay away from Geneva, at least at the opening stage, making it a rump conference at the start.

The magic formula that was to bring Israel, Egypt and Jordan to the negotiating table is there. But can peace after four bloody wars and over 50 years of Arab hostility really be attained through magic formulas?

Geneva does not seem to bode well for the successful outcome of a peace conference.

Despite its magnificent setting, the marble-walled Palais des Nations — former seat of the defunct League of Nations — has a tradition of failure to achieve anything even resembling peace. Certainly the city on the shores of picturesque Lac Lemane, surrounded by the towering, snow-covered Alps, topped by Mont Blanc, is an attractive gathering place for international delegations, even in winter, when the weather is crisp and sunny. But the labyrinth of the 18-kilometre long Palais des Nations corridors,

with their Kafkaesque atmosphere, seem a more indicative omen than the beautiful scenery.

The Council Chamber, where the peace conference is due to open this morning, witnessed three months of futile diplomatic bargaining, yielding results merely on paper, during the 1954 conferences on Indochina and Korea. The marble bas-reliefs over its entrance door, with the inscription "Here is a great work of peace in which all can participate," and the wall-paintings inside, depicting Justice, Strength, Peace, Law and Intelligence, do not seem to inspire delegates who come with preconceived ideas. Will the Middle East conference be an exception to the rule and at last do justice to Geneva's reputation as the "City of Peace"?

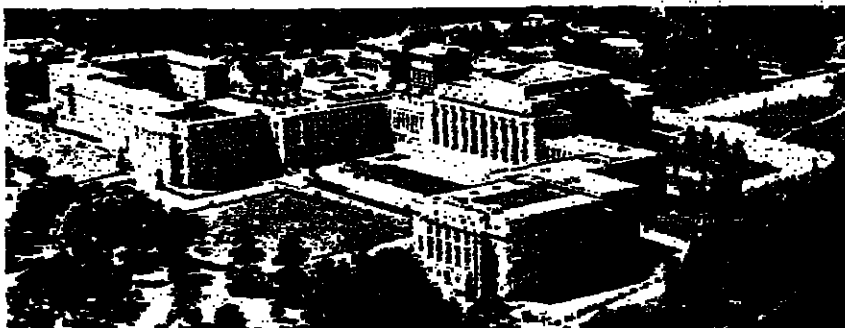
Probably not, if one is to go by some of the arrival statements here and by what has been said in the last few days by President Sadat of Egypt and by spokesmen for the Palestine Liberation Organization, which the Arabs claim to be the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Total withdrawal

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy said on his arrival here that he would "strive with determination to bring about the total withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories, and to restore their national rights to the Palestinians." What these national rights are, was spelled out more on Tuesday by the P.L.O. Geneva representative, Daoud Barakat: the disappearance of Israel as a political entity and the creation of an Arab-Jewish democratic republic in what was once British Mandatory Palestine.

But one was able to find some solace in the fairly moderate statement made on arrival by Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, who, although consistently refraining from calling the conference a peace conference, said that the Soviet Union would show "goodwill and realism to arrive at a good decision," and would "do its best to guarantee the success of the conference."

Perhaps the Soviet Union has come round after the October War



The Palais des Nations is the site of the Geneva Conference on the Middle East. The League of Nations built the Palais to ensure peace. It is now administered by the United Nations.

to accepting the American principle as summed up once by Joseph Sisco — "Keep talking and stop shooting." Be that as it may, one thing seems certain — Russia will not let the U.S. arrange a "Pax Americana" in the Middle East.

Whatever is decided will have to be done with the full consent of the Soviet Union.

The Russians are certain to cash in on the fact that they agreed to play along with U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger in letting him try out his mastery in magic formulas and diplomatic gimmickry that almost amounted to the squaring of the circle when it came to solving the problems of U.N. auspices and Palestinian representation. But they are one of the two co-chairmen of the conference and are expected to use this role to the fullest.

On the brighter side of the mood surrounding the peace conference's difficult curtain-raising stage, one can note the friendly mingling of Israeli and Arab journalists in and around the Palais des Nations. If there were still need to prove the wisdom of direct negotiations, free of the meddling of intermediaries with their own axes to grind, one need only to join the crowd in "Salle 13" for a few minutes. But from there to some basic political Israeli-Arab understanding the road is very long — perhaps endless.

There is no question that the visits to Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip during the past few years by some of these Arab journalists have

contributed in no small measure to their attitude towards their Israeli colleagues at the Palais des Nations.

Dr. Kissinger — the master-mind behind the Geneva peace talks, decided to arrive here last, just on the eve of the conference, as if making a grand entrance to his own big show. The maintenance of his reputation as international fixer-upper and peace-maker depends on the outcome, or at least the smooth sailing, of the peace conference during the next few months.

Lasting settlement

Since he has declared a number of times that he really means to achieve a lasting settlement and not another makeshift arrangement in the war-torn Middle East, one can expect him to pull possible strings, on and behind the scenes, to prevent the conference from getting bogged down at its various stages of tough bargaining. The big question is whether he will keep to his word not to exercise any undue pressure on Israel just to deliver the goods, which is exactly what the Arabs would like to happen.

Will the Arabs make it easy for him, and put up a moderate negotiating profile, at least at the initial stage, despite the intransigence of their public statements? Or will they decide to try to get the issue on to the agenda right from the start, thus forcing the Americans' hands?

To judge again by statement on Wednesday, emphasis on the need for a lasting peace, without the threatening reminder of the Middle East remains highly alive and that the cease-fire, fragile, it seems that they opted for the latter course.

The Rome Airport massacre Arab terrorists and the last plane hijack ordeal have heavy shadows on the conference.

These, coupled with Syria's refusal to attend the talks, emboldened the Arabs here in Geneva great deal. But on Wednesday, the apparently coordinated attack of Yehon and Gromyko, an at-self-assurance again, prevented the newsman assembled here, who seemed to feel that they were something going for them, had of the two super-powers. For it was not even a question whether this would become a farce of "Sals" — not speak of "Sals," which is the Arabic word for peace and conciliation.

As a veteran correspondent has gone through the futile tangles of the 1954 Indochina conference at the same Palais des Nations put it:

"This whole thing is a complete farce. Nothing can come of this kind of attitude by the Arabs and the continued murderous belligerence of the Palestinian terrorists. I've seen it happen before."

But then, there is still the ray of hope that the very fact of an Israeli-Arab meeting under a description "Middle East peace conference" may create its own dynamic. As one declared Israeli delegate said: "Even if we don't succeed, and personally I don't believe anything will come out of it — at least we can tell ourselves our children that we tried to make peace."

These are the grim realities of Geneva. But perhaps the days and weeks ahead will tell another, brighter story.

Dry Bones



ISRAEL PRESS

'Geneva no herald of the Messiah'

Davar (Histadrut) says that though exaggerated hopes should not be pinned on the Geneva Conference, which does not "herald the days of the Messiah...we must remember that this is the first time official Israel and Arab representatives are meeting since the Lausanne Conference some twenty-five years ago. There have never been Israel-Arab negotiations at so high a level as foreign ministers. Though this is no guarantee for success, without such talks peace could never be attained." The paper recalls that high-ranking Israeli spokesmen have said she was prepared to go more than half way to meet the Arabs (and this does not mean geographically), and will display maximum flexibility, in so far as her defence needs permit. "Let us go to Geneva in the hope that this is the first step on the long road to peace," the paper concludes.

She'arim (Po'alei Agudat Israel) warns against the Government's tendency to see everything through rose-coloured glasses. "This complex also affected the position taken by the Government in talks with the U.S. on the Geneva Conference. It took too optimistic a view of American readiness to fulfil promises and of its own ability to take action against violation of promises." The paper also attributes the shortcomings preceding the Yom Kippur War, and the erroneous evaluation of the Arabs' and Russians' intentions, to this "rose-coloured glasses" complex, which is also behind the Government's undue optimism regarding its ability to influence the Syrians to take a more humane attitude regarding the prisoners.

Ma'arezt (non-party) expresses profound distress over the killing of forty-two Israeli POWs by the Syrians. "Now that the Government has stated this officially, there is no doubt of the accuracy of this figure. In view of past experience of the Syrians' maltreatment of prisoners, there are grounds for assuming the number is even greater. The Syrians are following the example of Nazi Germany in ignoring the universally agreed standards on treatment of POWs." All the excuses given by Syrian spokesmen for their refusal to exchange POWs are empty phrases. Israel must draw world attention to the Syrians' barbaric behaviour.

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by David Landau
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Readers' letters

FACTS ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — For an unbiased look at the Middle East before the Balfour Declaration, let us examine the 1911 Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Under the heading Jerusalem we find: "The population in 1905 was about 60,000 (Moslems 7,000, Christians 13,000, Jews 40,000)."

Is this the Arab Jerusalem before 1948 that the Arabs want?

Even more illuminating is the material on "Barbary Pirates" which includes the following: "The first half of the 17th century may be described as the flowering time of the Barbary Pirates... all traders belonging to nations which did not pay blackmail in order to secure immunity were liable to be taken at sea. The payment of blackmail, disguised as presents or ransoms, did not always secure safety with these faithless barbarians. The most powerful states in Europe descended to make payments to them and to tolerate their insults.... The continued existence of this African piracy was indeed a disgrace to Europe, for it was due to the jealousies of the powers themselves. France encouraged them during her rivalry with Spain; and when she had no further need of them they were supported against her by Great Britain and Holland. In the 18th century British public men were not ashamed to say that Barbary piracy was a useful check on the competition of weaker Mediterranean nations in the carrying trade.... An extensive list of such punitive expeditions could be made out, down to the American operations of 1801-5 and 1815. But in no case was the attack pushed home, and it rarely

happened that the aggrieved Christian state refused in the end to make a money payment in order to secure peace. The frequent wars among them gave the pirates numerous opportunities of breaking their engagements, of which they never failed to take advantage.... Lord Exmouth... in combination with a Dutch squadron under Admiral Van de Capellen administered a smashing bombardment to Algiers. The lesson terrified the pirates both of that city and of Tunis into giving up over 3,000 prisoners and making fresh promises. But they were not reformed and were not capable of reformation, Algiers resumed its piracies and slave taking, though on a smaller scale.... The great pirate city was not in fact thoroughly tamed till its conquest by France in 1850."

Has anything changed?

HARRY J. LIPKIN
Professor of Physics
Weizmann Institute of Science
Rehovot
Rehovot, December 10.

THE DANGER OF A COUNTER-BOYCOTT

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — On December 4, you reported that Dr. A. Rafailoff of the Israel Manufacturers' Association had proposed that the Western world launch a counter-boycott against the Arab states. While the basic thought may be sound ("fight fire with fire"), nevertheless, it overlooks a most important fact.

The real danger in a counter-boycott would be that the Arabs would become even more dependent upon the Soviet Union for supplies. This economic dependence is one of the USSR's major goals in the Middle East and is one of the primary factors which fuels the fires of war. Ultimately, economic dependence could lead to political dependence, and the Arab states are clearly in danger of losing their precious "Arab lands" — this time to a superpower they think to be their friend.

Peace is the last thing the USSR wants for the Middle East. It would bring further ties between the Arabs and the West and under-

mine Soviet influence. The end of the Arab-Israeli struggle would do away with the necessity of Arab arms purchases and Soviet advisers. Strangely enough, the destruction of the State of Israel would do the same.

Perhaps a far more effective strategy than counter-boycott would be closer cultural contacts between the Arabs and the West, including increased trade. Perhaps the undoing of Mr. Dulles' actions in Egypt would be a first step to peace.

JOHN A. TVEDENES
Jerusalem, December 9.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I was very glad to see Mrs. L. Tuckman's letter on the subject of daylight saving time (December 6), and I heartily support her views. I feel sure that the fatigue, weakening of health and consequent reduction in output which would be the result of working shopping, queuing for buses, etc. during the extra hours of daylight in the summer, will considerably outweigh any saving in electricity.

The daylight saving system may be suitable for Europe, where the climate and conditions are entirely different from those in Israel, but I firmly believe that it is not possible in Israel.

SHULAMITH GAVRI
Tel Aviv, December 7.

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